

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 16, 2014

Reply to Attn of: Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate

TO: Distribution

FROM: Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations

SUBJECT: Sensitivity of Communications with Industry on the Lunar Cargo  
Transportation and Landing by Soft Touchdown (Lunar CATALYST)  
Announcement

On January 16, 2014, NASA issued a competitive announcement requesting U.S. private sector proposals to partner with NASA in the development of commercial robotic lunar lander capabilities. As a result of this announcement, called Lunar CATALYST, NASA anticipates entering into one or more no-funds-exchanged Space Act Agreements (SAAs) with private sector partners. To support lander development, NASA's contribution to each partnership could include, at no cost to the partner, NASA civil servant technical expertise, access to NASA test facilities, the loaning of equipment, and software.

Because of the sensitivity associated with the evaluation process and potential selection, effective immediately, all NASA personnel, with the exceptions identified below, shall refrain from communicating with the private sector concerning this competition. This "blackout" period of communication will continue until proposals have been received and evaluated, any and all SAAs awarded, and the evaluation panel has been released from its responsibilities.

As an exception to these communication restrictions, respondents may direct questions about the announcement to the Lunar CATALYST Point of Contact, Nantel Suzuki, at NASA Headquarters (email [hq-lander@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:hq-lander@mail.nasa.gov)). Additionally, limited communications with the private sector are allowed during the blackout period so that respondents to the announcement may ascertain whether their proposed NASA contributions to a potential partnership are viable. All such communications with the private sector regarding potential NASA contributions shall be conducted by Greg Chavers, at Marshall Space Flight Center (email [greg.chavers@nasa.gov](mailto:greg.chavers@nasa.gov)). Mr. Chavers will coordinate with NASA Centers, through the Advanced Exploration Systems Center Points of Contact, as needed to confirm the viability of respondents' proposed NASA

contributions. NASA communications with respondents shall not include any assistance in preparing proposals.

It is important that all NASA personnel adhere to the above direction. Compliance will ensure the dissemination of uniform responses to all inquiries and eliminate the possibility of preferential treatment of any respondent.

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William H. Gerstenmaier

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Date

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